Non-enforcement of POTA in Jammu and Kashmir

132. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jammu and Kashmir Government has decided not to enforce POTA in the State:

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government has released many terrorists involved in terrorist activities and proposes to give amnesty to many others;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Central Government in view of the security and integrity of the country as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) One of the items of the Common Minimum Programme agreed upon by the partners of new coalition State Government in J and K is not to implement POTA in the State on the ground that there are enough laws to deal with militancy.

(b) and (c) As per information received from the State Government eight persons detained under J and K Public Safety Act, 1978 have been released on parole for a period of one month in the first instance.

(d) The Central Government has already advised the Government to exercise due caution and to take case by case decisions while releasing detenues so that foreign militants and persons who are likely to revert to violence if released and those charged with serious crimes are not released in the process.

Threats by Al-Badr to females

133. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terrorist outfit Al-Badr has compelled females in Rajouri (Jammu and Kashmir) to wear Burka and gave ultimatum to them to quit jobs with the State Police by 15th January, 2003;

(b) If so, the impact of the Al-Badr's threat and ultimatum; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to allay fear of the female members of the area and to eliminate Al-Badr from the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the fact that terrorist outfit Al-Badr had come up with veil diktat exhorting women particularly School/College going girls in Rajouri (J & K) and also gave ultimatum to Muslim women working with the State Police to quite temporarily started wearing Burqa. However, no police women resigned her job due to the threat. The State Government has informed that there has not been any change in the mindset of the common people, particularly women, following the terrorist threats and people have started indicating that they are generally fed up with such diktats being issued by the terrorist.

(c) Various precautionary steps have been taken by the State Government to meet such nefarious designs of terrorist outfits, which include:—

(i) Premises around Colleges and Schools have been brought under closer security surveillance;

(ii) The bus stops/terminals frequented by women have been adequately kept under watch and patrolling in their vicinity intensified;

(iii) Confidence building measures with active participation of local respectable persons have been undertaken by local administration to restore confidences among common people particularly among women;

(iv) Security forces have stepped up its counter terrorist operations in this area.

Special courts for atrocities against women

134. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any proposal to set up any special courts for women particularly in the metropolitan cities to try cases relating to atrocities against them; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Under Section 11 of the Code of Criminal